

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment after final because the amendment to the claims places the claims in better form for allowance.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 150-154 are pending in the application, with claims 150 and 151 being the independent claims. Claims 108, 149 and 155-160 are sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 155-160 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Office Action at page 2. Applicants have canceled claims 155-160. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection is now moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 108 and 149 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No.

5,955,280. Office Action at page 4. Applicants have canceled claims 108 and 149. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection is now moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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